

Message Text

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FOR CARTER FROM PA

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TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE, WEDNESDAY, JULY 19, ENTITLED "U.S. TO WARN SOVIET ON NEWSMEN RULING."
2. STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS SAID YESTERDAY IN WASHINGTON THAT A SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICIAL WOULD BE CALLED IN, PROBABLY TODAY, TO DISCUSS "A WIDE VARIETY OF THINGS," INCLUDING THE STATUS OF THE SAN FRANCISCO BUREAU OF TASS, THE SOVIET PRESS AGENCY.
3. KENNETH BROWN, A STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN, ANNOUNCED THE DECISION TO SUMMON A SOVIET OFFICIAL AFTER A DAY DURING WHICH THE DEPARTMENT WAS BOMBARDED

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WITH QUESTIONS ABOUT POSSIBLE RETALIATION TO THE RULING AGAINST TWO AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS BY A MOSCOW COURT ON SLANDER CHARGES.

4. MR. BROWN SAID NO TIME HAD BEEN FIXED FOR THE CONFERENCE WITH A SOVIET OFFICIAL AND HE COULD NOT DISCLOSE THE NAMES OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS

WHO WOULD CONFER WITH THEM.

5. ONE OFFICIAL, WHO ASKED TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS, SAID THE SUMMONS WOULD REPRESENT "A RATHER DELICATE WARNING" TO THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT OF POSSIBLE RETALIATION LATER FOR THE RULING AGAINST CRAIG R. WHITNEY OF THE NEW YORK TIMES AND HAROLD D. PIPER OF THE BALTIMORE SUN.

6. THE OFFICIAL INDICATED THAT NO SOVIET JOURNALIST WOULD BE EXPELLED FROM THE UNITED STATES FOR THE PRESENT. OTHER OFFICIALS CONFIRMED THAT THE APPROACH TO THE SOVIET OFFICIAL WOULD BE "LOW KEY," AND THAT NO LINK WOULD BE MADE DURING THE CONVERSATION TO THE MOSCOW TRIAL.

7. IT HAD BEEN WIDELY REPORTED EARLIER IN THE DAY THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF TASS, RATHER THAN AN EMBASSY OFFICIAL, WOULD BE CALLED IN TO DISCUSS THEIR PERSONNEL AND FACILITIES IN SAN FRANCISCO. THE DECISION TO CALL AN EMBASSY OFFICIAL INSTEAD APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN MADE IN LATE AFTERNOON.

8. REACHED BY TELEPHONE, YEVGENY YEGOROV, CHIEF CORRESPONDENT IN THE TASS BUREAU IN WASHINGTON, SAID HE HAD ARRIVED FROM MOSCOW ONLY AN HOUR EARLIER AND KNEW UNCLASSIFIED

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NOTHING ABOUT THE MATTER.

9. "I CAN'T SAY ANYTHING, I REALLY DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT," HE SAID.

10. SEVERAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WARNED REPORTERS NOT TO ASSUME THAT SUMMONING THE EMBASSY OFFICIAL MEANT THAT THE ADMINISTRATION HAD DECIDED TO ORDER THE CLOSING OF THE TASS BUREAU IN SAN FRANCISCO.

11. THE STATE DEPARTMENT CRITICIZED THE MOSCOW RULING IN THE CASE OF THE TWO CORRESPONDENTS.

12. "WE DEPLORE THE ACTION," TOM RESTON, A SPOKESMAN, SAID AT A STATE DEPARTMENT BRIEFING IN WASHINGTON. "WE ARE MONITORING THIS CASE VERY CAREFULLY. WE HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THE TWO NEWSPAPERS AND WE ARE NOW CONSIDERING WHAT STEPS WE MIGHT TAKE."

13. SPOKESMEN FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE BALTIMORE SUN DEFENDED THEIR REPORTERS AND CRITICIZED THE JUDGE'S RULING IN REGARD TO THE ARTICLES WRITTEN BY

CRAIG R. WHITNEY OF THE TIMES AND HAROLD D. PIPER OF THE SUN.

14. "THE TIMES WILL NOT PRINT A RETRACTION OF MR. WHITNEY'S ACCURATE MAY 24 DISPATCH, WHICH HE FILED IN GOOD FAITH AFTER CONSCIENTIOUS REPORTING," SEYMOUR TOPPING, MANAGING EDITOR OF THE TIMES, SAID IN NEW YORK.

15. HE ADDED THAT THE VERDICT "IMPLIES THAT AMERICAN REPORTERS CAN BE HAULED INTO COURT AT ANY TIME AND PENALIZED FOR REPORTING IN A FULL AND FAIR MANNER ON EVENTS IN THE SOVIET UNION."

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16. DONALD H. PATTERSON, PUBLISHER OF THE SUN PAPERS, SAID IN BALTIMORE, "THERE IS NOTHING WE CAN RETRACT."

17. MR. PATTERSON CONTINUED, "IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THE WHOLE PATTERN THAT THIS THING HAS TAKEN IS TO SHOW THE WESTERN PRESS THAT THE SOVIETS ARE NOT GOING TO TOLERATE ANY COMMENTS, QUOTES OR STORIES ABOUT RUSSIAN DISSIDENTS.

18. BOTH NEWSPAPERS SAID THEY WOULD SEND THE REPORTERS BACK TO MOSCOW.

19. MR. WHITNEY, WHO WAS ON VACATION IN EDGARTOWN, MASS., SAID IN A STATEMENT MADE PUBLIC IN NEW YORK THAT ALTHOUGH HE HAD NOT YET READ THE SOVIET JUDGE'S DECISION, "BASED ON NEWS REPORTS WHICH I HAVE RECEIVED, I AGREE WITH THE DECISION OF MY EDITORS NOT TO PRINT A RETRACTION."

20. MR. TOPPING'S STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE TIMES WAS AS FOLLOWS:

21. "THE NEW YORK TIMES DEPLORES THE FINDING IN THE MOSCOW CITY COURT HOLDING CRAIG WHITNEY OF THIS PAPER AND HAROLD PIPER OF THE BALTIMORE SUN LIABLE FOR SLANDER. THE ACTION IMPLIES THAT AMERICAN REPORTERS CAN BE HAULED INTO COURT AT ANY TIME AND PENALIZED FOR REPORTING IN A FULL AND FAIR MANNER ON EVENTS IN THE SOVIET UNION. THIS SEVERE INHIBITION DENIES AMERICAN REPORTERS FREEDOM ENJOYED BY SOVIET REPORTERS IN THE UNITED STATES.

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22. "THE TIMES WILL NOT PRINT A RETRACTION OF MR.

WHITNEY'S ACCURATE MAY 24 DISPATCH, WHICH HE FILED IN GOOD FAITH AFTER CONSCIENTIOUS REPORTING. WE MAINTAIN THAT THE MOSCOW CITY COURT LACKS JURISDICTION TO ORDER PRINTING OF ANY SUCH RETRACTION.

23. "THE TIMES HAS REPORTED FULLY THE VIEWS OF THE VARIOUS PARTIES IN THE GAMSAKHURDIA CASE. DAVID SHIPLER, MOSCOW BUREAU CHIEF OF THE TIMES, COVERED THE PROCEEDINGS IN MOSCOW CITY COURT TODAY. HE IS FILING A COMPREHENSIVE NEWS REPORT FOR PUBLICATION IN THE WEDNESDAY PAPER. -

24. "WHEN MR. WHITNEY RETURNS TO HIS POST IN MOSCOW, AFTER HIS HOME LEAVE, WE EXPECT THAT HE WILL CARRY ON HIS WORK IN THE NORMAL FASHION." CHRISTOPHER

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